



COVENTRY
CATHEDRAL



TOC H

A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

to mark 90 years

of

Toc H

Saturday 25th June 2005 at 2.00 pm

Toc H was founded in Belgium during the First World War in a tall white house in Poperinge by an army chaplain the Revd Tubby Clayton. Poperinge was a rail head, 11 kms from Ypres. Talbot House, as it was called, or Toc H in signallers' code, provided a haven for young soldiers heading up the line toward, or returning from, the hell of the trenches. In the peace which followed from 1918 Toc H rapidly became a worldwide movement offering companionship through Marks (small Christian communities), branches (offering local service), and community activity.

Today, Toc H continues to build better communities, practising its historic mission of reconciliation. We are still a world-wide family with members and staff of widely diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and our focus on helping society to progress has not changed.

We run mentoring programmes with young people, we run family projects, and nurseries, and are sponsoring academies (the first in Bradford due to open in 2007). Toc H branches take inner-city youngsters into the countryside, and later this year Toc H sponsors a 150-mile barge trip with 10 different groups joining the barge at different points along its journey. At all times our members and volunteers continue to add strength and support to our mission which is still expressed as - building a fairer society by working with communities to promote friendship and service, confront prejudice and practise reconciliation.

Today's service will be a joyous affirmation of everything that Toc H has achieved. We work with people and communities to help them build – and sometimes rebuild - what is worthwhile in life.

"Ninety years is a ripe old age for anyone, including a charity. Toc H has survived at a time when volunteering is only just becoming fashionable again – and now the older members have the opportunity to hand on the inspiration of Toc H to a new generation.

Before the service, music is played on the organ. At 2 pm the choir enters and moves to the west screen. The Dean of Coventry, the Very Revd. John Irvine, welcomes everyone; then a brief silence is kept before everyone STANDS to sing.

The Gathering

The Entrance Hymn

Father, Lord of all Creation,
Ground of Being, Life and Love;
height and depth beyond description
only life in you can prove:
you are mortal life's dependence:
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
yours is every hour's existence,
sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for Others,
we, your people, make our prayer:
give us grace to love as brothers
all whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
you, Lord, Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever
there your love may all men see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
wind and flame of Pentecost,
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,
nevermore to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction,
God, through us your love make known.

Stewart Cross (b.1928)

Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Taylor (1907-1991)

The Lighting of the Lamp

Everyone remains STANDING. Mrs Anne Fletcher, a Toc H member, moves to the chancel step to light the lamp, and the choir sings

Hail, gladdening Light, of his pure glory poured
who is the immortal Father, heavenly best,
holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
the lights of evening round us shine,
we hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
with undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life alone:
therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.

*Greek, 3rd century or earlier tr. John Keble (1792-1866)
Sebaste, John Stainer (1840-1901)*

The one who lights the lamp says, and everyone replies

Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works
And glorify our Father which is in heaven.

Everyone SITS or KNEELS to pray. The lamp burns throughout the service.

The Bidding Prayer

The Dean prays

We come today to this house of prayer to thank God for Toc H. It is 90 years since another house of prayer in Belgium opened its doors as a place of peace in the midst of war. We thanked God for it then and we thank Him now. We thank God that the lively faith of those at the beginning created faith in others despite the times, and gave purpose and meaning to many lives.

We pray for ourselves, for our doubts and fears, our running away from responsibility, and our inability to be what we know we ought to be. We pray for the world we live in, a world of uncertainty and fear, a world in which the foundations have been shaken.

We pray that in To C H God will work to prove the power of love so that people will find in To C H a cause for hope and not a stumbling block, a way of life and a purpose.

We yearn for a better world, a world where the strong may help the weak, where the rich may discover greater profit in helping the poor, where the well will help and support the ill, a world where people and nations may find new purpose and meaning, serving each other, working for justice building a city of peace and freedom.

We ask God to hold our attention so that faith might live and hope become more certain of fulfilment. We ask this in the words Jesus taught us, not for our own sake, but for all humankind.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Everyone STTS while the Cathedral Choir sings

Psalm 48 v8

We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God : in the midst of thy temple.

Stephen Elvey (1805-1860)

The First Reading

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Isaiah 61.1-4,8

The Four Points of the Compass

The earliest statement of the aims of Toc H was drawn up by the Revd P B 'Tubby' Clayton, the Revd Dick Sheppard and Alexander Paterson early in 1920. It was revised in 1936, and again in 1967, and originally introduced with the words, 'a further statement of our aims as we begin to see them'.

Friendship: To love widely

Mr Varghese, Toc H India Commissioner, says:

In Toc H the Four Points of the Compass set out our understanding of what Toc H is and what it stands for. We are called to reach out to all in a spirit of friendship. Loving widely is both a challenge to

members as well as providing members with new opportunities to develop a spirit of understanding and reconciliation that will contribute to building better communities.

A student from the Toc H Public School Cochin:

Those of us who have joined Toc H recently have done so for variety of reasons, in order to contribute to building better communities. We may have been influenced by friends, attracted by a project or encouraged by a relative who is a member. For whatever reason we have entered Toc H we have been welcomed in friendship and will continue to welcome others; we have been challenged to address our prejudices which can so easily divide people; and remain committed to ensuring that in what we do, or say or think we will continue to see the needs of others as our own.

Music and Dance by Xplosion

Xplosion is a cultural music arts and performing arts organisation based in Bradford working with young people on the streets by highlighting their natural talents.

Service: To build bravely

Mrs Betty Cornick says:

In Toc H the Four Points of the Compass set out our understanding of what Toc H is and what it stands for. We are called to build bravely. There have been many examples of Toc H members building bravely, translating vision into practical projects. Centres such as Colsterdale, or projects like Khasdobir, or the Birmingham Outward Group continue as expressions of Toc H serving communities. Projects like these have enabled members, with their varying gifts, to serve their fellows.

Miss Laura Simms says:

Joining Toc H has been a challenge because we can see that members are asked to do more than attend meetings. Personal service is not a

particularly fashionable thing in today's consumer society but when challenged by Toc H we will try to respond. The local communities in which we live are affected by local and international conditions. In Toc H we try to understand their effect on others, and by our example challenge our neighbours to join us in building bravely for the future.

The organ plays, and everyone STANDS to sing.

The Hymn

Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the Gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light.

J. Marriott (1780-1825)

Everyone SITS.

Fairmindedness: To Think Fairly

Mrs Anne Fletcher says:

In Toc H the Four Points of the Compass set out our understanding of what Toc H is and what it stands for. We are called to bring to members the knowledge and experience of others. How we do this is a matter for each of us individually, some branches have a guest night, some members become involved as volunteers in projects. In whatever way seems right as Toc H members we have always been in the front line, challenging stereotypes and seeing people as individuals with something to contribute as well as receive.

Mr Rudolph Forde says:

Those of us who have joined Toc H recently have done so for a variety of reasons. What we recognise is that an important part of living out Toc H is listening to the views of others. By hearing what others think we can begin to find our own convictions. Thinking fairly means trying to influence public opinion so that there will be less conflict.

Everyone remains SEATED for

Music

Hummingbird Choir, Toc H Public School, Cochin.

The Choir has been formed and trained as a part of the school's holistic approach to the development of individual students, and has won many accolades for its performances.

The organ plays, and everyone STANDS to sing.

The Hymn

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul...*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul...*

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all men that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Sebastian Temple (1928-1997)

Everyone SITS.

The Kingdom Of God: To witness humbly

Mr Ken Prideaux Brune says:

In Toc H the Four Points of the Compass set out our understanding of what Toc H is and what it stands for. Of all the things we stand for the most difficult is the challenge from our founders to work for a better world through the example of friendship, service and fair-mindedness. To witness humbly is not easy, in these times to witness

at all is a challenge but we must try, it is a duty not only to those elder brethren we recall but to the future.

A younger member says:

For many who have joined Toc H recently this fourth Point of the Compass is the most difficult. Today fewer people acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and even less practise the Christian way of life. Religion continues to divide people. At the same time it is clear that terrorism will not help truth prevail. To witness humbly is to practise reconciliation. The Kingdom of Heaven has been called the Kingdom of Right relationships. Toc H offers a space where people can meet and in a spirit of open heartedness remember the sacrifices of past generations and make a new commitment to seek peace.

The Anthem

'The War Widow's Lament'

Words by Mike Lyddiard Music by Philip Henderson

'Come the Darkened Hour'

Words by Michael E Ward Music by Philip Henderson

The Second Reading

Jesus said to them, 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6.32-36

The Address

*The preacher is the Right Revd David Conner,
Dean of Windsor and Bishop to Her Majesty's Armed Forces.*

The Hymn

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father, into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (b.1920)

Allehulia dulce Carmen from Essay on the Church Plain Chant, 1782

The Prayers

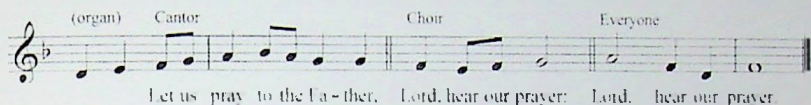
The prayers are led by Manoj Joshi, Toc H Trustee

Shanara Begum, Toc H Staff Member, East London

Paul Dimoline, Toc H Volunteer

Arthur Heffernan, Toc H Veteran

Before the first prayer, and after each one, the cantor and choir sing, and everyone replies



May there be peace in the higher regions, may there be peace in the firmament. May there be peace on earth. May the waters flow peacefully. May the herbs and plants grow peacefully. May all the divine powers bring unto us peace. The supreme Lord is peace. May we all be at peace. Peace, and only peace; and may that peace come unto each of us.

from the Vedas

Let us pray to the Father.....

O Lord, grant us to love thee: grant that we may love those that love thee; grant that we may do the deeds that win thy love.

Mohammed

Let us pray to the Father.....

Father, we thank you for Toc H in all its rich variety.
In thinking fairly may we lessen prejudice;
In loving widely may we encourage a spirit of reconciliation;
In witnessing humbly may we develop a faith to live by;
In building bravely may we create a world community
worthy of being called the Kingdom of God
following the example of Jesus. Amen.

Let us pray to the Father.....

I thank you, Lord, for knowing me better than I know myself, and for letting me know myself better than others know me. Make me, I pray, better than they suppose, and forgive me for what they do not know.

Adopted from Abu Bekr, Mohammed's father-in-law

Let us pray to the Father.....

The prayers conclude with the Toc H Prayer said by everyone:

O God,
who hast so wonderfully made Toc H,
and set us in it to see our duty as thy will;
teach us to live together in love and joy and peace;
to check all bitterness,
to disown discouragement,
to practise thanksgiving,
and to leap with joy to any task for others.
Strengthen the good thing thus begun,
that with gallant and high-hearted happiness
we may work for thy Kingdom in the wills of all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Ceremony of Light

Everyone STANDS.

The Ceremony of Light is an act of rededication used at meetings of all kinds. It is a reminder that Toc H stands for the fundamental principles outlined in the Four Points of the Compass. The light represents that spirit which members aim to maintain continually in their own lives and activities and in their groups.

Leader With proud thanksgiving let us remember our elder
Brethren.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Everyone

We will remember them.

A full one minute's silence is kept. Then the leader and congregation say once more

Let your light so shine before men
that they may see your good works
And glorify our Father which is in heaven.

The Recessional Hymn

During the hymn, the choir and ministers move to the West End, the Dean of Coventry escorting the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and other guests.

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord: Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them: They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord ...

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord

Tune Here I am, Lord Dan Schutte (b.1947)

There will be a retiring collection to defray expenses